From: Michael Kemp
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/9/01 6:07pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Sir-

        Looking through the proposed settlement of the Microsoft case, I see that there is plenty of provision for for-profit entities, such as Netscape. However, the real threats to Microsoft's dominance as a monopoly comes from what are called "open source" and "freeware" products.

        For example, the Apache web server system (www.apache.org) is used as a webserver by 56% of all webservers on the internet(1). However, the foundation that maintains the webserver system's software is a non-profit organization. They would have no rights at all, or even be considered to exist in the current proposal

        Another example is SAMBA. This is a software suite that allows client machines to access files from a server. The server, when running the SAMBA software, can masquerade as any type of server, such as an NT file server. From my own experiene, I can attest that the SAMBA system is popular. However, I cannot give any specific statistics.

        I would also like to point out that, as it stands, the only real threat to Microsoft are groups of independent software engineers who do not charge any money for their product and work for free, esentially acting as volunteers.

Sincerely,
Michael Kemp
PO Box 3028
Socorro, NM 87801-3028

1-http://www.netcraft.com/survey/
2-http://tr.samba.org/samba/samba.html, http://www.samba.org/